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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD-964)  
FPO AP 96665-1202

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From: Commanding Officer, USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09BH) Washington Navy  
Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: SUBMISSION OF COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1991  
(OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Basic Historical Narrative

1. As required by reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.

*R. J. Daigre*  
R. J. DAIGRE  
By direction

Copy to:  
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COMNAVSURFPAC

BASIC HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

1. COMMAND ORGANIZATION

a. Commanding Officer, Commander Edward J. Kujat, USN, relieved Commander Timothy M. Ahern as Commanding Officer on 23 February 1991.

b. Executive Officer: LCDR Rivet J. Daigre, USN, relieved LCDR Michael G. Matacz, USN, as Executive Officer on 13 September 1991.

c. As of 31 December 1991, the following Department Heads were assigned:

OFFICER	BILLET
LCDR	Operations Officer
LT	Combat Systems Officer
LT	Engineering Officer
LT	Supply Officer
LTJG	Navigator

## 2. Summary of Operations

Superior performance in combat during Operation DESERT STORM punctuated Paul F. Foster's 15th year of service. A salvo of Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from the vertical launcher of this Long Beach based Spruance class destroyer constituted the opening salvo from the Persian Gulf during the early morning hours of 17 January 1991.

During the next eight days, Paul F. Foster successfully fired a total of 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles towards targets in Iraq. Only one U.S. Navy ship fired more missiles during the Gulf War.

In recognition of outstanding combat performance, the Navy authorized the following decorations for those who served in Paul F. Foster:

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Navy Unit Commendation
- National Defense Service Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal
- Kuwait Liberation Medal

The year began with Paul F. Foster moored outboard Francis Hammond at the Subic Bay Naval Station, Republic of the Philippines, for a scheduled upkeep period, in company with the Ranger battlegroup. The eight-ship armada deployed from their homeports of San Diego, Long Beach, and Alameda on 8 December 1990 en route to the Persian Gulf to join a growing multi-national force supporting Operation DESERT SHIELD.

As Battlegroup Echo departed Subic Bay on 3 January 1991, Paul F. Foster moved to Nabasan ammo wharf where additional Tomahawk missiles were quickly loaded in accordance with the Fleet Commander's orders. Shasta (AE-29) spent the previous week at the wharf loading ammunition nearly around the clock. The morning the battlegroup sortied was the first opportunity Paul F. Foster had to finish loading its vertical launcher. The crew's anticipation was growing for what lay ahead in the Persian Gulf and the remainder of a scheduled six-month deployment. The President and the United Nations had set a 15 January 1991 deadline for Iraqi troops to vacate the Kuwaiti territory captured during the 2 August 1990 invasion.

Ranger and her escorts headed west to the Gulf via the traditional route, clearing the Strait of Malacca on 6 January. As the 15 January deadline drew nearer, the battlegroup's speed of advance increased. Soon Paul F. Foster and Princeton, and Aegis cruiser carrying Tomahawk missiles also homeported in Long Beach, were directed to detach from the battlegroup and steam ahead at 25 knots to the Gulf. The general consensus aboard ship reasoned the area commanders didn't want to start the war without two more Tomahawk missile platforms.

Paul F. Foster and Princeton inched to the NAVCENT AOR on 11 January and proceeded to Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. After anchoring over night at Fujairah on the 13th, Paul F. Foster escorted USS Acadia (AD-42), USNS Spica (TAFS-9), and USNS Hassayampa (TAO-145) through the Strait of Hormuz. The Midway battlegroup was already on station in the Gulf.

Upon entering the Gulf, we were told to report to UNREP Sierra for screening duties around several oilers staging in the south-central Gulf. Strike Sierra, the commanding officer of USS Wisconsin, wanted Paul F. Foster to join several other Tomahawk shooters in the northern Gulf and prepare for short-notice TLAM tasking. Within 36 hours, the ship was sent further north to the Central Arabian Gulf, closer to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi coastlines, yet outside the extreme edge of Iraq's fighter/bomber tactical range.

On 15 January, we intently watched the world news reports coming in over the broadcast. We were looking for some indication of what the world was going to do about the standoff with Saddam. Talks had failed. The unthinkable soon became the unavoidable. War in the Gulf, but when? Our first indication arrived on the afternoon of the 16th.

The messages zipped off the teletype. Nine of them. Launch orders for nine Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The Strike Team went into automatic. We had practiced this over and over. The crew was fantastic. Everyone did their job. There was calm and professionalism. We planned. We rehearsed. We checked. We waited.

Then shortly after midnight on January 17th, we sent the ship to General Quarters. To those in the States, they will always remember the Gulf War starting on the evening of the 16th, but to those in the Gulf it began during the wee hours of a dark, moonless morning, January 17th.

We had moved even further north in the Gulf to take our firing positions not knowing if minefields or Iraqi missile patrol boats were lurking around the numerous oil fields and platforms. We were not alone. To the west were the battleships Missouri and Wisconsin. To the north and east the cruiser Bunker Hill and destroyers Leftwich and Fife. All carried Tomahawk cruise missiles poised to launch on schedule.

Although not specifically stated, one of the ship's officers spotted something in the timing of the launching orders. The initial missile salvos were to be fired in the order of the commanding officers' seniority.



The time had come. The war was about to start. We'd learn later that Tomahawk missiles launched from Navy ship's would be the first shots fired. The Commanding Officer, CDR Timothy M. Ahern, stood shoulder to shoulder with LT (b) (6), the TAO, in Combat Information Center directly over the missile firing panel. They re-checked the firing plan with Cruise Missile Division Officer LTJG (b) (6). The two battleships, the cruiser, and the Fife were to fire immediately before Paul F. Foster. Everyone listened on the radios to hear their reports of "Happy Trails" which was the codeword for a successful missile launch.

The radios were unusually silent. The other ships should have shot by now. The TAO asked the Officer of the Deck, LT (b) (6) if he could see any missiles in the pitch black sky. "Nothing sir." Paul F. Foster's scheduled time to shoot was only minutes away.

The CO and TAO turned and looked at each other. No words were spoken. But we both seemed to be wondering, "Did we miscalculate? Do we have the right time? The right day? The right war?"

"Could we be starting the war too early?" No. Within seconds the Strike Team re-checked all the orders and the planning was perfect. A quick call on the Command Execution Net to USS Wisconsin, the TLAM Firing Coordinator, confirmed we were on time.

"Execute firing plan!"

The morning stillness was punctured by a monstrous roar. At 0141 local time, the one-ton missile sprang from its metal silo on the forecastle with a bright flash of fire and smoke. All hands on the bridge shielded their eyes, except LT (b) (6), the Junior Officer of the Deck, who would follow the missile's initial path to confirm it was flying properly on the first leg of a several hundred mile journey into history. USNAVCENT authorities later confirmed this was the "first shot" from the "Arabian Gulf."

Paul F. Foster launched Tomahawk missiles each day between the 17th and 22nd of January. The last shots were a three-missile salvo fired on the 25.

On January 18, Captain G.T. Forbes, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven, embarked in Paul F. Foster with his staff to assume duties as November Sierra, the Northern Arabian Gulf Anti-Surface Warfare Commander. RADM R.J. Zlatoper, Commander, Carrier Group Seven embarked in Ranger, tasked Commodore Forbes to actively engage and assist in eliminating the Iraqi Navy.

HSL 45 DET 3, embarked in Paul F. Foster, with Lonewolf 41 teamed with coalition attack helos and fixed wing aircraft earning six kills against Iraqi naval patrol boats. The embarked DET and Paul F. Foster had repeatedly practiced LAMPS MK III anti-surface

tactics during the transit of the Arabian Gulf. This later proved beneficial as Lonewolf 41 teamed with British Lynx attack helicopters firing Sea Skua missiles destroying numerous Iraqi patrol boats and reduced the enemy's Navy to a non-existent status. Lonewolf 41 also provided targeting for a Kuwaiti patrol boat which conducted the only surface-to-surface engagement of the war. LT Burt Palmer served as DET OINC.

As COMDESRON Seven's Flagship, Paul F. Foster was instrumental in supporting and participating in over 40 confirmed fast patrol boat, small boat, and amphibious support craft kills by the ASUWC staff. The ship was a key contributor to the small boat eradication during the Battle of Bubiyan Island, which essentially marked the end of the Iraqi Naval surface threat.

The ship patrolled the Northern Gulf in areas suspected and later confirmed as Iraqi minefields. Paul F. Foster crew members spotted three floating mines and coordinated their destruction with supporting commanders to ensure the safety of the task force. A fourth mine was discovered near the ship by a helicopter shortly after it launched from the ship.

The embarked LAMPS MK III helicopter conducted oil spill reconnaissance missions deep into the Northern Arabian Gulf to collect information in support of theater commanders' daily reports to national authorities. Paul F. Foster provided a safe base of operations and detailed pre-flight intelligence briefs for the lightly armed helicopter and crew. Videotape and still photography taken from Lonewolf 41 were reviewed immediately upon return to the ship by COMDESRON SEVEN. He radioed his reports directly to the Battle Force Commander. The videos and photos were forwarded to assist the national command authority in dealing with Iraq's purposeful destruction of the Arabian Gulf environment.

Paul F. Foster served for about two weeks as the communications connectivity ship with the Sanbouk and the Istiglal, combatants from the remaining Free Kuwaiti Navy.

On the fateful day of 18 February, Paul F. Foster was screening the task force when Tripoli hit a moored mine. Later that same day, when Princeton was rocked and damaged by at least one bottom mine, Paul F. Foster was steaming nearby within visual range. Lonewolf 41, airborne for dawn patrol, was quickly vectored to assess damage from the air and offer assistance. Paul F. Foster's electronic warfare technicians smoothly assumed the

duties of Northern Arabian Gulf Electronic Warfare Commander from Princeton while she was recovering from the initial blow.

While the ground war was still raging, CDR E.J. Kujat relieved CDR Timothy M. Ahern as Commanding Officer in a Change of Command

ceremony at sea in the ship's helo hanger. Featured speaker was Commodore Forbes. Guests included CO, Mobile Bay. The ship learned of CDR Ahern's selection to Captain just as he departed.

During Venom 504's in-flight loss of one engine, Paul F. Foster set emergency flight quarters, closed at best speed for rapid intercept and best recovery winds despite steaming through a known minefield. After the endangered helo recovered safely on deck, Paul F. Foster maneuvered at the last minute to avoid a confirmed mine being detonated by and in-area explosive ordnance disposal team.

The ship proceeded south for a Tender Availability alongside Acadia in port Jebel Ali, U.A.E. from 25 February to 01 March. This was the first break in the high tempo operations in nearly seven weeks. The second day alongside provided another milestone. The ship's VLS launcher was re-loaded with Tomahawk missiles staged on Acadia's deck constituting the Navy's first in-theater Tomahawk VLS rearming. Leftwich completed an Armored Box Launcher reload the previous week while alongside Acadia.

Paul F. Foster left the Arabian Gulf transiting through the Strait of Hormuz on 18 April, this time in company with Ranger and her Battlegroup. Battlegroup Echo outchopped from the NAVCENT AOR on 22 April, completing 96 days in a combat zone.

As Paul F. Foster departed the Arabian Gulf, COMDESRON SEVEN released the following message summarizing the ship's performance in battle:

FM COMDESRON SEVEN  
TO USS PAUL F. FOSTER  
SUBJ: BRAVO ZULU

1. Bravo Zulu to the crew of the USS Paul F. Foster for your superb performance as COMDESRON SEVEN Flagship for Operation Desert Storm. You carried out your mission with enthusiasm and vigor providing timely and outstanding support throughout the North Arabian Gulf offensive ASUW campaign.

2. Your execution of 40 flawless Tomahawk launches during operation Desert Storm, including the first salvo fired in the war, are feathers in your cap and a credit to the USS Paul F. Foster's high state of combat readiness and unrivaled professionalism. It was an impressive sight to watch the missiles leave the launcher, salvo after salvo, and wing their way toward enemy territory--each and every missile on time and on target. You epitomize what surface warfare is all about. Additionally, the Paul F. Foster/HSL 45 DET 3 team were most effective in supporting the many varied taskings from oil spill RECCE to mine surveillance to log support to SST, including targeting for the only surface to surface engagement in the ASUW campaign. What a team!

### 3. Well Done.

Released by CAPT. G.T. Forbes.

The journey back included a brief swing south of the Equator near Singapore providing an opportunity to conduct Crossing the Line ceremonies. The return transit also included liberty port calls in Pattaya Beach, Thailand; Hong Kong; and a brief upkeep at Subic Bay Naval Station, Republic of the Philippines. Few realized this would be their last visit to Subic. The base is closing and being turned over to the Philippine government.

During the stop in Subic, the ship returned to Nabasan Wharf to offload Tomahawk missiles and other ammunition.

The journey home included an overnight stop at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, HI. This gave us time to pick up 50 Tigers for the final seven days of the deployment. A special Tiger PQS was developed which encouraged the fathers, brothers, sons and other male relatives and friends of crewmembers to learn about the ship and its crew in a week's time.

One special Tiger with us was Robert A. Foster, a retired lawyer from Newport Beach, CA. He is a nephew of Paul F. Foster.

The ship returned to Naval Station Long Beach on a bright, sunny morning, 8 June 1991, exactly 6 months after deploying.

The post-deployment standdown officially lasted 30 days; however, crewmembers involved with nuclear weapons handling and command and control spent most of the month preparing for the Nuclear Weapons Assist Visit held 8 July.

Preparations for a 4-month Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) occupied much of July and early August.

The ship joined the Third Fleet Ready Duty Force in August and sailed between 6-15 August in support of Counter-narcotics, law enforcement operations off the California coast and Baja California.

Upon return to port, the ship was notified of a short-notice Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI). The ship passed with flying colors.

A one-day stop at Naval Weapons Magazine, Seal Beach allowed the ship to offload its remaining ammunition in preparation for entering the shipyard and drydock.

The DSRA began 23 August and continued through the end of the year. The ship docked in Long Beach Naval Shipyard Dock 3 on 27 August. Because of significant work scheduled on habitability



services, the crew moved off the ship 29 August and into Naval Station Barracks. A duty section remained with the ship throughout the availability. A berthing barge was not available.

The ship capitalized on the inport time utilizing numerous individual school quotas and several team trainers. During TMA Bearings and Frequencies, one of the those team trainers, the instructor stated Paul F. Foster produced the highest grades ever seen in that course.

LCDR Rivet J. Daigre relieved LCDR Michael G. Matacz as Executive Officer on 13 September. LCDR Matacz reported to our ISIC, COMDESRON 9, where he relieved CDR Marty Leghardt, as Chief Staff Officer.

COMNAVSURFGRU Long Beach headed a command inspection team that evaluated Paul F. Foster from 15-18 October.

The ship undocked on 26 November following several weeks of delay caused by the unavailability of replacement lower rudder bearings throughout the Navy. Oldendorf, in Drydock 2, and Ingersoll, homeported in Pearl Harbor both needed rudder bearings as well. There was considerable logistical maneuvering by the Type Commander to acquire suitable substitute bearings which were machined to fit in Paul F. Foster.

### 3. Chronology of Calendar Year 1991

01 Jan-03 Jan	Inport, Subic Bay Naval Station, RP
03 Jan (a.m.)	Ammo onload, Nabasan Wharf, Subic Bay
03 Jan-12 Jan	Underway with Battlegroup Echo en route to Arabian Gulf
06 Jan	Transit Malacca Strait
11 Jan	INCHOP COMUSNAVCENT AOR (North Arabian Sea)
13 Jan	Anchor vicinity Fujairah, United Arab Emirates
14 Jan-23 Feb	Underway
14 Jan-15 Jan	Transit Strait of Hormuz escorting USNS Spica (TAFS 9), USS Acadia (AD 42), and USNS Hassayampa (TAO 145)
16 Jan-23 Feb	Patrol in North Arabian Gulf launch basket
17 Jan	(0138 local) Paul F. Foster launches first Tomahawk cruise missile from the Arabian Gulf.
18 Jan	Launch Tomahawk missiles. Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven (Captain G.T. Forbes) and staff embark. November Sierra (as Northern Arabian Gulf (ASUWC) formed to eliminate Iraqi naval forces.
19 Jan	Launch Tomahawk missiles.
20 Jan	Launch Tomahawk missiles.
21 Jan	Launch Tomahawk missiles.
22 Jan	Launch Tomahawk missiles.
25 Jan	Launch final three Tomahawk missiles from Paul F. Foster

26 Jan	Embark Stinger Missile Detachment with three missiles.
30 Jan	Commanding Officer, USS Mobile Bay, arrives for luncheon with Commodore Forbes.
23 Feb	CDR E.J. Kujat relieved CDR T.M. Ahern as Commanding Officer.
24 Feb	Anchor vicinity Bahrain Bell. Underway, en route Jebel Ali. United Arab Emirates.
25 Feb-01 Mar	Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates. Conducted Tender Availability with USS Acadia (AD 42)
27 Feb	Ammo onload. Conduct in-theater reload of Tomahawk missiles from USS Acadia's deck.
29 Feb	Stinger Missile Detachment debarks.
02 Mar-13 Mar	Underway, en route to North Arabian Gulf to resume Strike Patrol/Helo Operations.
02 Mar	Commanding Officer, USS Harry W. Hill (DD 986), CDR Synder visits Commodore Forbes. Visit relates to collision between Harry W. Hill and Kansas City.
12 Mar	Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven and Staff debark and return to USS Ranger.
14 Mar-19 Mar	Inport Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates. Tender Availability with USS McKee (AS 41).
15 Mar	Embarked Cape Cod Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 1A commanded by LTJG Robert White, USCG.
19 Mar	Underway, en route Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
19 Mar-26 Mar	Inport Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
27 Mar-01 Apr	Underway, Central Arabian Gulf.
02 Apr	Anchored, vicinity Bahrain Bell.
02 Apr-28 Apr	Underway, TF 154 operations in the Arabian Gulf.
05 Apr	Commander, Carrier Group Seven, RADM R.J. Zlatoper and Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven, CAPT G.T. Forbes arrive for luncheon and Admiral's Call.
06 Apr	Cape Cod LEDET 1A debarks.
18 Apr	Transit out Strait of Hormuz, depart Arabian Gulf.
21 Apr	Change of OTC to CTG 70.5
22 Apr	OUTCHOP COMUSNAVCENT AOR. Depart Combat Zone.
27 Apr	Crossing the Line Ceremony.
29 Apr-03 May	Anchor, Pattaya Beach, Thailand.
04 May-07 May	Underway.
08 May-12 May	Port Visit Hong Kong.
13 May-14 May	Underway.
15 May-18 May	Inport Subic Bay Naval Station, RP
15 May	Ammo offload, Nabasan Wharf, Subic Bay, RP
19 May-30 May	Underway, en route Pearl Harbor
29 May	Commander, Carrier Group Seven, RADM Zlatoper arrives for visit.
31 May	Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI. Embark Tiger Cruise guests.
01 Jun-07 Jun	Underway, en route Long Beach.

08 Jun		Return from Deployment. Moor, Pier 6, Naval Station Long Beach.
08 Jun-08 Jul		Post-deployment Leave and Standdown.
08 Jul-10 Jul		Nuclear Weapons Assist Team (NWAT) Visit
11 Jul-30 Oct		R1 Availability with SIMA NRMF Long Beach
22 Jul-26 Jul		Supply Management Assessment (SMA) and Maintenance and Material Management Assist visits.
22 Jul-26 Jul		Pre-SRA Aeronautical Shipboard Intallation Representative (ASIR) visit.
22 Jul-26 Jul		Mobile Training Team (MTT) Phase 1A
22 Jul-26 Jul		ASW Phase I Team Trainer, San Diego
06 Aug-15 Aug		Underway, Law Enforcement Operations: Southern California OPAREAS and Baja.
19 Aug-21 Aug		Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection (NTPI)
22 Aug		Underway en route Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station for ammo offload prior to DSRA.
23 Aug-31 Dec		Docking Selected Restricted Availability with Long Beach Naval Shipyard.
23 Aug-15 Nov		R2 Availability with SIMA NRMF Long Beach
27 Aug		Enter Drydock 3, Long Beach Naval Shipyard
29 Aug		Crew moveoff to berthing barracks, NAVSTA Long Beach
05 Sep		Participated in POTSHOTS 91-15
07 Sep		Ship's Picnic
09 Sep-13 Sep		ASW Phase II Team Trainer, San Diego
13 Sep		LCDR Rivet J. Daigre relieves LCDR Michael G. Matacz as Executive Officer.
23 Sep-27 Sep		TMA Bearings and Frequencies Team Trainer, San Diego
26 Sep		Participated in POTSHOTS 91-16
15 Oct-18 Oct		Command Inspection conducted by COMNAVSURFGRU Long Beach
21 Oct-25 Oct		Mobile Team Training (MTT) Phase 1B
18 Nov-22 Nov		Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representative (ASIR)
21 Nov		Crew move aboard
26 Nov		Undocking
02 Dec-19 Dec		Light Off Assessment (LOA)
06 Dec		Ship's Christmas Party
10 Dec-17 Dec		JOTS II Installlation
18 Dec-31 Dec		Inport, Naval Station Long Beach; Holiday Leave and Upkeep
20 Dec		Dock Trials